



2009 Annual Report for: Aleph National User group (ANUG)

Gegnir – The National Library System of Iceland

Gegnir, www.gegnir.is, the Consortium of Icelandic Libraries is a national library system. It serves as a union catalog as well as a library system for about 200 libraries. Among the member institutions are the National and University Library of Iceland, universities, most public libraries, and primary and secondary schools as well as research libraries.

The setup is one instance of Aleph500 version 18.01 and service pack level 2069. The basic structure of the system is one bibliographic catalog and 12 administrative units into which the 200 libraries are grouped.

The size of the system by end of 2008 is:

Bibliographic records:	1.100.000
Items:	4.400.000
Circulation:	3.400.000
Borrowers:	156.000
Libraries:	200

Gegnir is managed by a public limited-liability company “Landskerfi bókasafna” or Consortium of Icelandic Libraries, www.landskerfi.is. The company is jointly owned by the municipalities and the state. Participating libraries pay service fee depending on size.

Alefli - The Icelandic National User Group

There are almost 200 libraries in Iceland using Gegnir (Aleph). The Icelandic User Group for these libraries is called Alefli, <http://www.alefli.is>. It is a formal association that acts as a support for the Consortium of Icelandic Libraries. Due to our setup there is just one IGeLU vote for all these libraries and it is in hand of the Consortium of Icelandic Libraries.

Alefli's main activity last year 2008/09 was holding an annual user group meeting in May. Over 100 participants attended a half day conference.

Developments

For the past year the Consortium of Icelandic Libraries concentrated its effort in two areas, quality related issues and pre-project for an Integrated Search System for Iceland, in cooperation with the Royal Library and the Technical University in Copenhagen.

- Quality Related Issues

1. Authority control

A special task force was initiated to address quality related issues concerning the bibliographic data. The main effort was streamlining and amending the authority control as well as ensuring the display of the authority information in the web OPAC.

Icelandic is a small language area, supporting approximately 300.000 people. We have already built an authority database in Aleph that serves as a controlled vocabulary for Icelandic. The formation of a functional authority database and authority control has been a difficult task with many hurdles on the way and no

known corresponding library in the Aleph community, which means that information on the right practice was difficult to obtain.

The authority database contains mostly Icelandic headings; Icelandic personal and corporate names, uniform titles of the Sagas and other old-Icelandic literature as well as Icelandic subject terms and geographical names with some cross references in English.

2. Further development of OPAC functionality

We continued to make improvements on the web OPAC. The highlight is accessibility policy which aim is to make the website, www.eggnir.is, accessible to everyone. The OPAC does now follow the guidelines of [Level Double-A Conformance to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0](#) by [W3C](#).

Another issue is the quality of search results regarding material that does not have any items. The problem is when limiting search by a sublibrary then material which does not have items, for example electronic material and analytical records are not included in the results. We have made some progress but would welcome an input to solve this problem.

- SFX upgrade

Since year 2006, the consortium has subscribed to a limited version of SFX, called SFX express on a SaaS basis. This summer it was decided to upgrade to SFX Classic. The upgrade is planned within next weeks.

- Pre-Project for an Integrated Search System for Iceland

Following a study made in year 2008, the consortium entered into a collaboration with The Royal Library and the Technical University of Copenhagen. The pre-project set out to analyze the possibility for an integrated search solution for Iceland based on Primo, as partnership between the consortium, The Royal Library and the Technical University of Copenhagen, with a permission from Ex Libris to utilize Primo in a prototype. The project was concluded in the early spring of 2009.

The cooperation with the Danes was most successful. Icelandic data, both catalog data and other data was successfully integrated into a Primo prototype. Same applies to a subset of licensed material. Testing revealed one Primo issue to be discussed with Ex Libris. It relates to the fact that the Icelandic national catalog contains many records with a very high number of items. Thus, users are in some cases provided with a very long list of items to choose from. Usage of Primo views eased the problem, but proper solution would be to suppress holdings that don't belong to a specific institution. Ex Libris is aware of this issue. The Icelandic Consortium is now evaluating next steps towards an integrated search solution for Iceland.

- URM Consortia Focus Group

The Consortium of Iceland Libraries is participating in the URM Consortia Focus Group.

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